

# IRC News

030 - July/August 2009

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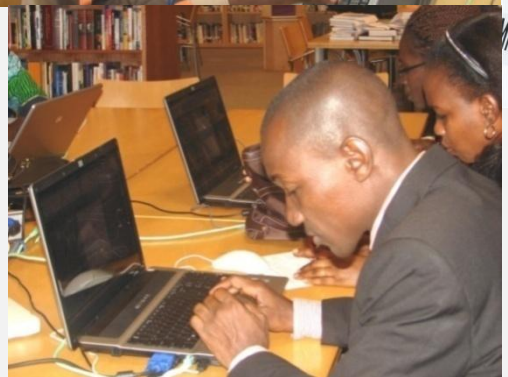
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Please join the IRC team @ [cca\\_ci@state.gov](mailto:cca_ci@state.gov)

On July 21, 2009 PAS Abidjan participated to a Webchat on “La corruption et l’Afrique”. The participants were very pleased to interact with public diplomacy officer Dan Whitman, the speaker. They were very much concerned about the subject since the country and all Africa is facing this challenging problem. All of them were happy to exchange ideas with Washington about corruption. Most of the questions from Abidjan were about the causes of corruption and the ways of combating it. IRC printed and distributed IIP articles about the subject to program participants. They expressed their gratitude to the US Embassy and said they hoped to be invited to future Webchats. As a recommendation, they suggested more time for discussion after the Webchat session

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*Webchats are Internet online discussions offered by IIP. American experts communicate in real time with participants around the world on tangible issues.*

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## Webchat Discussion on : ‘La Corruption et l’Afrique’



Participants engaged in the webchat on ‘La corruption et l’Afrique’



For more information, please refer to the following web site:

<http://statedept.connectsolutions.com>



## Migration and Human Smuggling



On July 24, 2009 PAS Abidjan invited 20 participants to take part to the webchat on “*Migration and Human Smuggling*”. The IRC distributed IIP products about the subject. The participants seized the opportunity to express themselves on this timely topic, clearly demonstrating its relevance and importance to an African continent dealing with this challenging issue. They were very pleased to attend this webchat and join the other participants from Africa to exchange concerns about this phenomenon. Most of the questions from Abidjan dealt with the effectiveness and efficiency of measures planned to address this issue. Participants asked for a follow-up webchat on exclusively for organized for Abidjan Côte d’Ivoire to enable the speaker to answer all their questions.

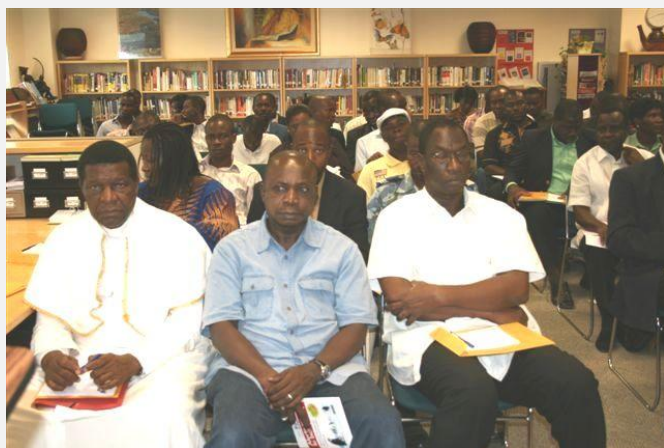
## Conference on 'Our Iceberg is Melting: Changing and Succeeding Under Any Conditions'

On July 29, 2009, PAS organized its seventh Book of the Month conference of the year on *Our Iceberg is Melting: Changing and Succeeding Under Any Conditions* by John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber. Over eighty people attended the program, including government officials, police officers, youth, NGO and religious leaders, human rights advocates, civil society activists and media professionals. The National television and radio covered the book program.

In her remarks, the IRC Director Marie Laure Angoran noted that change is a worldwide concern and that each participant should carefully consider the Eight Step Process of Successful Change outlined in the book. After the presentation of the book, participants discussed the complexities of change and its implementation at an individual, corporate and national level. They specified that the most difficult aspect of using the book's methods for Cote d'Ivoire is to pull together a guiding team to lead the change (Step 2), because at this point, selections are always made for social, ethnic, and political considerations.

The audience commended the program for its relevance and recommended a follow up discussion with a larger audience

including political party leaders in Cote d'Ivoire. An educator in the audience encouraged a large distribution of this book to schools, teachers and parents. The moderator, Mrs. Okrou-Boka, who is a former International Visitor, noted that this program came at a good time to help understand any future political change, since presidential elections are scheduled for November. Post presented 35 copies of the Nouveaux Horizons book *Alerte sur la Banquise: réussir le changement dans n'importe quelles conditions*.



Partial view of the participants



Panelists: Dr. Fofana, Boka and Mrs. Angoran

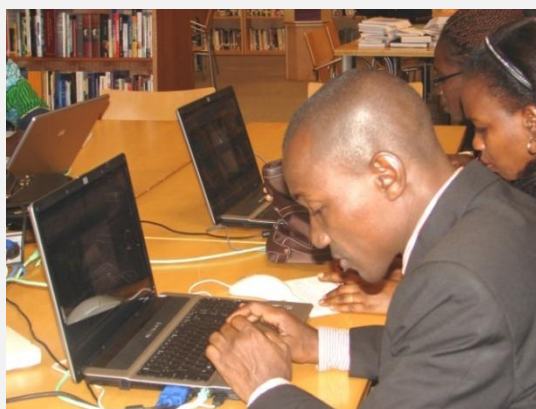
# IFLA Webchat on 'Innovative Public Library Programs'

*On August 24, 2009, IRC Abidjan participated to the webchat on 'Innovative Public Library Programs' discussed in the framework of the International Federation of Library Associations and institutions (IFLA) Congress. Eighteen participants from the National Library and Information Science Association in Cote d'Ivoire engaged in the online discussion.*

Participants concluded that this interactive and inspiring conference contributed to increase their awareness about the evolving and challenging role of libraries in this digital era. From this experience, they requested another activity designed for Cote d'Ivoire on a similar subject to enable them to make the most out of this online program.

For more details, please click on:

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/note.php?note\\_id=120969039581&ref=mf](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/note.php?note_id=120969039581&ref=mf)





## IRC YEAR ROUND INTERSHIP PROGRAM

Post initiated this program with the HR Office to provide young, Ivorians with exposure to a professional and high standard American work environment. This project will also reinforce mutual understanding, capacity building and offer hope to young generation. The interns are trained to be professional librarians with good capabilities. Post invests in them by offering computer and English language literacy. Furthermore, Interns are invited to improve the IRC work with creative and innovative ideas.



**Konan Alain** joined the IRC on June 11, 2009 as a trainee. He will spend three months in the IRC to complete his professional training program. His agenda includes technical and advance library and documentation science activities such as Information Management, outreach activities, IRC program planning and web 2.0 initiatives. Before joining the IRC, Mr. Konan was a trainee at Peace Research Center CERAP (Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix).

## IRC CLOSED FOR THE ANNUAL INVENTORY

The IRC will be reopened for regular duties on September 8 at 9:00 AM. You are invited to come and see the IRC new collection of books and all the innovative activities such as:

- The librarything where you will find the IRC collection online
- The new information delivery system
- The Young Readers
- The Rotating Library Program
- The 2010 book of the month catalogue



## YOUNG READERS IN THE IRC

Started in March 2009, at the initiative of Ambassador Nesbitt, the IRC regularly receives primary and secondary schools to introduce them to the youth collection of books and online resources. This Young Readers program aims at investing in the young generation by promoting literacy, and reinforcing mutual understanding.

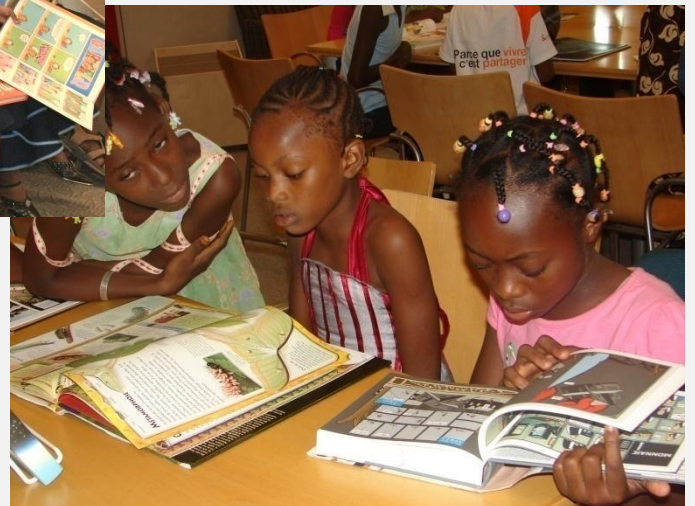


Every Wednesday afternoon, from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM the IRC will display the youth collection in French and English and also provide conferences and computer access for research purposes to primary and secondary school students.

Starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, the IRC will offer an annual membership card for Youth.

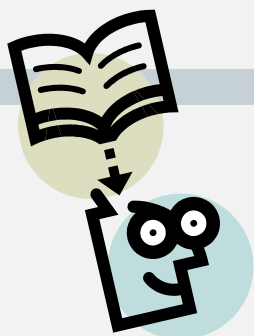


*Ambassador Nesbitt assisting young readers from EPP Espoir des Mamans of Yopougon.*



*Young readers from EEP Cocody*

*Danga II in the IRC*



## COMING SOON!!! IN THE IRC

**September 8** – IRC Reopening Ceremony

**September 9** – Immersion Session with members of the ‘Association des Etudiants en Communication’

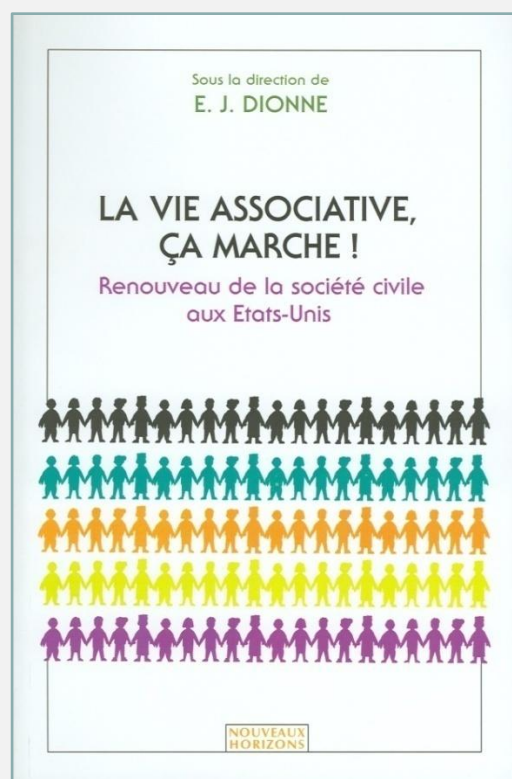
**September 10** – Webchat with Muslim Women (TBC)

**September 15 – 17** – AF IRC Workshop in Accra

**September 24** – Immersion session with the members of ‘Union Estudiantine et Scolaire du Departement de Dabakala’ - UESDDA (second ed.)

**September 30** – Book of the Month Program on ‘Community Works’ / la Vie associative ça marche: le renouveau de la société civile aux Etats-Unis.

You are invited to share your comment and analysis either in English or in French on the IRC home page on Facebook. Just click on this icon.



Please join the IRC community on Facebook @:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Abidjan/Information-Resource-Center-Abidjan/78472454205?ref=ts>